

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Specification:

Replace the paragraph at page 1, lines 4-12, as follows:

~~This application claims priority from U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/062,537, filed October 17, 1997, and entitled "A Method and Apparatus for Removing Draw Point Blockages, Scaling Unstable Rock Formations and Breaking Free-Standing Boulders" and from U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/087,058, filed May 28, 1998, and entitled "Method and Apparatus for Removing Obstructions in Mines," which are incorporated fully herein in their entireties.~~

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

The present application is a divisional application of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/173,876, filed October 16, 1998, and entitled "Method and Apparatus for Removing Obstructions in Mines", which claims priority both from U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/062,537, filed October 17, 1997, and entitled "A Method and Apparatus for Removing Draw Point Blockages, Scaling Unstable Rock Formations and Breaking Free-Standing Boulders" and from U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/087,058, filed May 28, 1998, and entitled "Method and Apparatus for Removing Obstructions in Mines," which are incorporated fully herein in their entireties.

Please amend the paragraph at page 17, line 11, to page 18, line 5, as follows:

The detonating device 90 is movably and loosely mounted in a detonating device passageway 134 to permit the detonating device to experience some lateral (side-to-side) and longitudinal (end-to-end) movement. This is accomplished by having a gap between the outer walls of the detonating device 90 and the inner walls of the detonating device passageway 134. It has been discovered that the gap provides more reliable initiation compared to a detonating device that is securely held in a fixed position in the passageway. The gap between the side wall of the detonating device and the side wall of the pocket preferably ranges from about 0.5 to about 4.0 mm. The detonating device 90 is further capable of moving back-to-front by contacting with the explosive charge. Preferably, the pocket detonating device volume ranges preferably from about 45 to about 90 percent of the detonating device pocket volume; the length of the pocket detonating device ranges preferably from about 75 to about 100% of the length of the detonating device 90 pocket; and the width of the pocket detonating device ranges preferably from about 65 to about 95% and more preferably from about 75 to about 85% of the width of the detonating device 90 pocket.